

The board and officers of the opera society, along with several members of the cast of the forthcoming opera, "Ariadne auf Naxos" which opens Thursday night at Lisner, were guests of honor at a cocktail party yesterday given by the American Newspaper Women's Club.

In line with Elinor Lee, food editor of The Washington Post, who was subbing for the club president, Mary Haworth, were Mrs. John Farr Simmons, chairman of the women's board; Mrs. Edward R. Finkenstaedt, wife of the president of the opera society; Mrs. James H. Douglas, Jr., secretary of the opera society, and Mr. Arthur Larson, co-chairman, with Mrs. Blake Clark of the occasion.

Mrs. Donald Quarles, wife of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, was among those taking their turn at the tea table. Mrs. Richard Hunt followed Mrs. Quarles at the silver service and others who served were Mrs. Charles Cabell, Mrs. George C. C. C., Mrs. McCook Knox and Mrs. Frank Dennis.

Mrs. Knox brought as her guests an old school friend from Miss Spence's. She's Mrs. Gordon Smith of Albemarle County, Va., and she's leaving today to visit another friend—Lady Astor now in Palm Beach.

It was the first time out since mid-October for Mrs. Joseph Battey who has been beset by one illness after another. Brig. General Battey was with her, and with Anne Blair were her mother, Mrs. Denton and Aubrey Stark.

Paul Calloway, musical director of the Opera Society, and Gerson Nordlinger were there and the gentleman in court dress and peruke was Lee Cass, member of the "Ariadne auf Naxos" company cast who was all ready for dress rehearsal last night.

Opera Lovers

THE GROUP of Washington women who have pushed for opera in Washington who've recently formed the Women's Board of the Opera Society of Washington, got a salute from Washington newswomen yesterday.